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strawberry—is similarly influenced. There are some varieties wholly pistillate, and it is claimed that when pollen is applied from other varieties, the resultant fruit is that of the male parent. It is of great practical importance that such a question should be decided by undoubted facts. Experience in other directions does not confirm these views.

The *Mitchella repens* is really a diœcious plant. Many years ago he found one plant with white berries, and removed some portion to his own grounds, where, isolated from others, it produces no fruit. In its native location it bears white berries freely, though the pollen is from the original scarlet-berried forms. Mr. Jackson Dawson had given him a similar case on Professor Sargent's grounds, where a white-berried *Prinos verticillatus* is produced, though it must have pollen from the original red-berried form. Other illustrations were referred to. To those who looked for regularity of rule in these cases, and in the light of the specimen of corn before the meeting, there might be a doubt whether the variation in corn, often attributed to cross-fertilization, may not, in some cases, result from an innate power to vary. It did not really follow that the rule should be uniform, for those who had experience in hybridizing knew how variable were the results, even from the seed of a single flower. Parkman had obtained, in lilies, seedlings so exactly like the female parent, that only for the remarkable form from the same seed-vessel, known as *Lilium Parkmani*, it might have been doubted if some mistake as to the use of foreign pollen had not been made. If so little influence could occasionally be found at a remote end of the line, we may reasonably look for an immediate influence at the nearer end in some exceptional cases. But there appeared to be no carefully conducted experiments on corn recorded anywhere, though the belief in the immediate influence of strange pollen is a reasonable one so far as general observation goes. It seemed, however, to him, with the specimen of innate variation in corn before us, more careful experiments with corn and other things are desirable.

December 23.

The President, Dr. Joseph Leidy, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

"On a Remarkable Exposure of Columnar Trap near Orange, N. J.," by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

"Note on Some New Foraminifera from the Nummulitic Formation," by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

"A Review of the American Species of Stromateidæ," by Morton W. Fordice.

A Glacial Pebble.—Dr. DANIEL G. BRINTON exhibited a supposed stone implement, obtained from the glacial drift in Butler County, Ohio, sent to him by its finder, for examination. He observed that, while there is no inherent improbability in such a discovery—as it is quite likely that man, or at least an implement-making animal, existed on this continent during the glacial epoch—this particular specimen does not offer convincing evidence that it is a work of art. It is a polished stone, resembling an axe. Both these facts are against it. The axe type appears late in the stone age, and nowhere, except in California, have geologists gone so far as to put the age of polished stone so far back in time as the tertiary period. In that enterprising State, the men of science claim that, not merely fine, but the very finest, examples of polished stone ever found in either continent are exhumed, *in situ originali*, from gravels of the pliocene and post-pliocene epochs (Foster, "Prehistoric Races of America," p. 55). This is in direct conflict with everything yet known of the older stone age elsewhere.

The present specimen illustrated anew how natural forces occasionally simulate in their products the results of hand-work. The criteria of the latter are, however, well-ascertained, and by observing them one can scarcely be deceived in examining any series of examples.

DECEMBER 30.

Mr. GEORGE W. TRYON, JR., in the chair.

Forty-one persons present.

The following were ordered to be printed:—